

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 11 February 1959

SUBJECT      Proposal to Coordinate Oeder Barge Traffic      NO. OF PAGES      1

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Poland has initiated discussions with East Germany on the possibility of coordinating East German and Polish barge traffic on the Oder river. The conclusion of a satisfactory agreement would mean that Polish barges could travel freely on the Oder and the inland waterways of East Germany. Conversely, East German barges would be allowed to travel on the Polish inland waterways. If such an agreement is reached, the DSU office in Szczecin (Stettin) will be liquidated and all barges will be serviced by the Polish administration in the Szczecin Barge port.
2. Poland initiated these discussions because a large percentage of its barge fleet was tied up at anchor due to a lack of work.
3. Poland made a similar proposal to Czechoslovakia,<sup>2</sup> but this proposal was rejected by the Czechs.
4. East Germany speeded up its program to issue seamen's books to all East German barge men. These books will be the equivalent of passports in that their holders will be entitled to travel freely between East Germany and Poland. The plans were to have the seaman's book replace a barge crew roster. This move may be indication that there will be greater freedom of movement in the barge traffic between Poland and East Germany and this could only result from the completion of a coordination agreement between the two countries.

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Comment: ~~Deutsche~~ Schifffahrts - und Umschlagsbetrieb (German Shipping and Transshipping Enterprise).

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